

Abigail Francis

Boston University
Wheelock College of Education & Human Development
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Education

2029 (<i>Expected</i>)	Boston University <i>Ph.D. Educational Policy Studies</i>
2023–2024	Vanderbilt University <i>M.Ed., Human Development Studies</i>
2019–2023	Davidson College, <i>B.A. Educational Studies</i>

Research Interests

Education Policy, Economics of Education

Publications

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

Ma M., & **Francis A.** (*Accepted*) Full Day Kindergarten and Enrollment Patterns: Evidence from Massachusetts. *Education Finance and Policy*

Francis, A., & Goodman, J. (2025) School Enrollment Shifts Five Years After the Pandemic, *Economics of Education Review*.

Braxton J., Marsicano C., **Francis A.**, & Sheldon D. (2022) Wither or Not the Academic Public Intellectual Across the Spectrum of U.S. Colleges and Universities, *New Directions for Higher Education*.

Manuscripts Under Review

Francis A., & Winters M. Emergency-Licensed Teachers and Academic Outcomes for Students with Disabilities. *Revise and Resubmit*

Winters M., & **Francis A.** Exemption Design and Human Capital Accumulation under Test-Based Promotion. *Revise and Resubmit*

Work in Progress

Francis, A. How Public-School Districts Interpret and Act on Enrollment Loss in North Carolina.

Yoon, Y., **Francis, A.**, & Senese, J. Spillover Effects of Charter School Closures: Localized Demand Shocks and Student Outcomes.

Media Writing

Goodman, J., and **Francis, A.** (2025). "School Enrollment Shifts Five Years After the Pandemic: Public education sees shrinking middle schools and an exodus of wealthy, white, and Asian students." *Education Next*, 25(4), 22 July 2025.

Media Mentions

[Boston Globe](#) | [Education Week](#) | [The 74](#) | [Thomas B. Fordham Institute](#)

[Yahoo Finance](#) | [Yahoo News](#) | [K12 Dive](#) + 10 others

Teaching Experience

Boston University

Teaching Assistant, ED431 Child Policy 2024 ; 2024

Teaching Assistant RS653 Quantitative Methods 2025

Vanderbilt University

Teaching Assistant, HOD 1300: Small Group Behavior 2023

Grants

George L. Abernethy Grant \$5900 2022

(Unfunded) Invited to Full Proposal; Under Review at *Charter School* 2026

Research Collaborative at MIT Blueprint Labs

- Yerin Yoon (PI), **Abigail Francis** (Co-PI)

Awards

Educational Studies Honors Thesis 2022

William B. Hight, Jr. Teaching Award 2023

Vanderbilt Academic Scholarship 2024

Presentations

National Committee of State Legislatures, AEFPP Annual Conference	2026
APPAM Annual Conference (<i>forthcoming</i>), Boston University PREREQ, Boston University Reading Group	
MIT Blueprint Labs School Access and Quality Fellowship Kickoff, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, EdWorkingPapers Webinar, Boston University Reading Group	2025

Affiliations

Wheelock Educational Policy Center (WEPC), Boston University	2025-Present
Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE)	2025-Present
Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)	2023, 2025-Present
College Crisis Initiative (C2I), Davidson College	2021-2023
Educational Studies Department, Davidson College Education Policy	2021-2023
Children and Screens, Institute of Digital Media and Child Development	2022

Refereeing

Education Finance and Policy (1)